

**Art Thou He That Should Come** (Matthew 6:1-6)

**Proposition:** Every child of God can weather the doubts and despairs of life by following the three principals we see in these verses.

**I. Recall the Purposeful Declaration of Christ** (Vs. 7-11)

A. A Declaration of Appraisal (Vs. 7b-10)

B. A Declaration of Approval (Vs. 11a)

**II. Remember the Perplexing Direction of Christ** (Vs. 2-3)

A. A Direction that brought Despair (Vs. 2)

B. A Direction that brought Doubt (Vs. 3)

**III. Rely on the Powerful Deeds of Christ** (Vs. 4-6)

A. His Miraculous Deeds (Vs. 4-5)

B. His Meaningful Deeds (Vs. 6)

Art Thou He That Should Come (Matt 6:16)

The story is told of a missionary who was sitting at her window when the mail well in our text we find a man that desperately needed a "Don't Despair" note from somebody. The heroic preacher John the Baptist is at the lowest point of his life. Doubts are gripping his heart and despair is shadowing his soul. It seems as though he is not sure of anything any more. Doubtless to say we have all been there. The things in life that we had so much confidence in are slipping away and we wonder like John, what in the world is God doing. This is the preacher the evangelist sent on mission from God and now he is wondering even the things he once preached. Is that you today? Well clue get good news for you today. Every child of God can weather the doubts and despairs of life by following the three principles we see in the verses before us today. Note principle #1:

I. Recall the Purposeful Declaration of Christ - Despite however you feel about the present condition of your life right now, or what you may think about it, it matters



only what God's word says! That will be a man

### A. A Declaration of Appraisal (7b-10)

Jesus had some words of appraisal concerning John. (7b) - The reeds at the Jordan River bend and blow at every breeze. Jesus asked <sup>1</sup> did you see a man that was swayed by every passing fact, by every social whim. (8) The clothing referred to that of the courtiers who flattered the King to gain his favor. Was he a man that told you what you wanted to hear to gain your favor? John wasn't for sale! Reminds me of one preacher. That wasn't John. No, a man sent from God! Now I wonder, if Jesus gave an appraisal of you

### B. A Declaration of Appraisal (1b) What

an appraisal! Jesus is saying "I have appraised your life John and you have passed w/ flying colors. But he's still in Jail. He's still facing execution. He's still not so sure about anything anymore. The commendation that Jesus is giving concerning John the Baptist has a purpose!

It doesn't matter really how you feel about your circumstances, or how bad they are but what does the word of God say about who you are! My Bible tells me <sup>5</sup> in a Royal Priesthood

### II. Remember the Perplexing Direction of Christ

I like what I heard one preacher say: "Look at the maps in the Bible. God rarely ever lead anyone

- 1) ...the mail arrived. She opened a letter and out fell a ten-dollar bill. As she read the note accompanying the money, the sight of a poorly dressed man on the street below caught her eye. Touched by the sight, she placed the ten-dollar bill in an envelope on which she wrote, "Don't Despair" and tossed it out the window. The man picked up the envelope, opened it, looked at the contents, smiled, tipped his hat, and went on his way. The next day there was a knock at the missionary's door and when she opened it there stood the man she had given the money the day before. He was standing there holding out a handful of cash to her. "What's this," she asked. The man said, "Lady, its your cut. 'Don't Despair' paid five to one yesterday."
- 2) ...be a North Star in your troubled sea of circumstance if you will let it!
- 3) ...that got up on Sunday morning and said, "I have in my hands three sermons. I have a \$100 sermon that lasts 5 minutes. I have a \$50 sermon that last 15 minutes, and I have a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour. Now we will take an offering and see which one I will preach."
- 4) ...of your life, what would his words be? Are you seeking first the kingdom of God or are you swayed off the heavenly way by every enticement of the world the flesh and the devil. It never ceases to amaze me the people that will not follow God, that will not give, that will not worship, that will not serve and wonder why they are in the mess they are in? Let the Lord appraise your circumstance today. If the appraisal is ill, that's what these alters are for!
- 5) ...royal priest hood, a holy nation, a son of God, an inheritor of eternal life, a joint heir with Jesus Christ!

1) ...we lose sight of what God said about us and begin to eye the circumstance about us. Often the direction that God is taking in our lives can discourage us and lead us to begin to despair. There is an old legend of how the devil once advertised his tools for sale at a public auction. When the prospective buyers assembled, there was one tool labeled, "Not For Sale." When asked why it was not for sale, the devil replied, "I can spare my other tools, but I cannot spare this one. It is the most useful tool I have. It is the tool of discouragement."

2) ...that was bringing on doubt. Is that where you are? "Why did God let this happen? Why aren't you answering my prayers? That's not the way it's suppose to happen!" You need to remember that God doesn't work off of your time table! Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.



(except Jonah) in a straight line, God's way can be kept

### A. A Director that brought Despair -

We can sympathize with John a little because of where we find him: in Jail! Not at the Mariell or the Hillen, but in a stinking prison. And for what? Doing what God told him to do. And when Jesus is in town he doesn't even stop by. Doesn't He know what's going thru? Doesn't He care? Can we take our super-spiritual masks off for a minute and agree that there are times when it seems that God is 1000 miles from our darkest troubles. When we lose sight of

### B. A Director that brought Doubt -

The man that once stood on the banks of the muddy Jordan and pointed a finger at Jesus and publicly thundered that He was the Lamb of God... now whispers to Jesus: "Are you really the Messiah?" vs 2 Works of Jesus so different than that of John. John look for Jesus to lay the axe to the root, to clean house, to take over and set up his kingdom. But that's not the way things are going. Jesus was not doing

things the way God had anticipated in that

### III. Rely on the Powerful Deeds of Christ -

If you find yourself in the same prison of doubt and despair as John, sit up straight and Listen

Because these same words that Malakles life will

A. His Miraculous Deeds - (4-5) Jesus begins to recount to John's disciples all of the miraculous deeds that are being performed for God's glory and for the cause of the Good news. John may not be able to see them, but nevertheless God is working. I've wanted to put caution tape and construction signs all around our sign by the road that says God is working! (Yes God is working here, you may not be able to see it from where you are but <sup>(1)</sup> God is working in the lives

B. His Meaningful Deeds (6) Listen very closely to the words of the Lord Jesus. The word "offended" means that which causes one to stumble. Vance Hanner John! I am at work whether you see or not. Don't get upset with me when I'm not going things your way." God doesn't always follow our counsel when it comes to the affairs of life. But as one preacher put it said "Happy is the man that doesn't get upset over how I run my business. John later was beheaded. <sup>(3)</sup> In Acts Peter was imprisoned

IV. Closer During WWII, when Hitler was blitzing London, for safety purposes the children were loaded into train after train and moved out of the city. One



- 1) ...in the lives of His people and in the midst of His church. Don't be discouraged, don't fall into despair! God is working in the lives of everyone. He works in the lives of lost people to bring them to Jesus, he works in the lives of wayward sons and daughters to bring them from the far country, he works in the lives of his closest disciples, to draw them closer to Him. 1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.
- 2) Vance Havner translated it this way: "Blessed is he whomsoever does not get upset by the way I run my business."
- 3) ...was in prison and was delivered. Why God delivered Peter and not John is beyond my understanding. Yet, that is God's business and He has the right to do whatever He wants. It may not know but He does. He is a God that makes no mistakes. Our part is not to be offended in how God does things. We are not to get upset with God in what He does.
- 4) ...One little fellow was asked, "Where are you going?" He replied, "I don't know, but the King knows." My lord knows the way through the wilderness all I have to do is follow.